

missing and the corpse was practically devoid of flesh. The bird had obviously been dead for some time, though it could not have come ashore before early October, when this beach was last searched. It carried a New Zealand ring (No. 28489).

Later I learnt from Mr. P. A. S. Stein of Auckland, who ringed the bird on Horuhoru Island, Hauraki Gulf, that it was hatched on November 10-11, 1955. The only other New Zealand gannet recovered in Western Australia was also ringed in Hauraki Gulf (see *W.A. Nat.*, 5: 119).

—G. M. STORR, Nedlands.

Crested Grebe on the Swan River Estuary.—The Crested Grebe (*Podiceps cristatus*) is not a common bird in the South-West and is more frequently met with on the southern estuaries than in the neighbourhood of Perth. Here it is more consistently reported from Lake Jandakot than anywhere else, though birds may occasionally be seen at Lake Cooloongup, also on the coastal plain, and at the Victoria Reservoir, in the Darling Ranges. On July 29, 1956, I saw a Crested Grebe, in fully-developed head plumage, on the Swan River Estuary at Pelican Point. It was swimming and diving close to the foreshore on the Nedlands side of the point. The water at the surface and shallows was perfectly fresh at the time. As far as can be ascertained the species had not previously been observed on this estuary.

—D. L. SERVENTY, Nedlands

Western Shrike-Thrush at Nedlands.—On June 7, 1956, accompanied by Mr. G. M. Storr, I observed a Western Shrike-Thrush (*Colluricincla rufiventris*) in the grounds of the University Zoology Department, Nedlands. The bird was moving about restlessly in the outer foliage of a tuart (*Eucalyptus gomphocephala*) occasionally giving voice to its melodious song. Serventy and Whittell (*Birds of Western Australia*, 1951: 272) state that this species "has long since forsaken the immediate neighbourhood of Perth," and is restricted to "the relatively little-altered bush." In this respect it differs markedly from its eastern representative the Grey Shrike-Thrush (*C. harmonica*). They also note that it sings only in the breeding season, its winter call being a loud "yor-ick," or "war-iek."

Mr. Storr has reported seeing a shrike-thrush again in the same place on August 3, 1956, and also that he has seen the species in eucalypts beside Perry's Lake, Floreat Park, on several occasions.

—D. L. McINTOSH, Nedlands.

Another Arctic Tern in Western Australia.—At Cape Leeuwin on November 12, 1956, one of us (N.E.M.) found a dead Arctic Tern (*Sterna macrura*) among rocks just above high-water mark. From its condition we estimate that it had been dead for about a month. It was possibly blown ashore on about October 8, when stormy weather was prevailing off Cape Leeuwin.

The specimen obtained by Storr from the Swan River on October 10, 1955 (described in *W.A. Nat.*, 5: 70) had no trace of the species' nuptial plumage and was presumably less than two years old. The present specimen, however, had retained a considerable amount of its nuptial plumage. A few white feathers were beginning to appear in the otherwise brownish-black forehead. The legs were red, the toes only were beginning to blacken. The bill, however, was entirely black. The dark internal strip along the inner web of the outer primaries was distinctly broader than that in the Swan River bird.

Measurements were as follows: culmen 29.5, tarsus 15, middle toe 21.5, wing (abraded) 252, outer rectrices (abraded) 150 mm.

This is the fourth specimen of Arctic Tern obtained in Western Australia.

— G. M. STORR and N. E. MILWARD, Nedlands.

The Ghost Bat in the North-West.—A. Douglas (*W.A. Nat.*, 5: 140) records the recent finding of the Ghost Bat (*Macroderma gigas*) on an island off King Sound and cites other instances of its occurrence in the State. As observations of this bat appear to be rare I wish to record its probable presence in the Barlee Range country in 1932.

The exact date I cannot recall, but I was inspecting a new fence through the range on Ullawarra Station. I entered a cave beside the fence and though at first there appeared no life in it I was suddenly in the midst of numerous large bats of a light grey colour which swept past me into the open and disappeared. There were at least 25 in the swarm and I vividly remember the amazement I felt at the time at the large size of the creatures. They were considerably bigger than the usual small and darker bats seen in the area. This is the only occasion on which I saw them in the 12 years I spent between the Barlee and Hamersley Ranges.

The cave, which was in slate cliff, was about 12 miles E. of Mt. Palgrave and 10 miles N.N.E. of the new Ullawarra homestead. It was situated on the right bank of the Wannery Creek.

—ANGUS ROBINSON, Coolup.

A Possible Record of the Spine-tailed Swift.—In his *Birds of the Swan River District*, 1948, D. L. Serventy states that the Spine-tailed Swift (*Hirundapus caudacutus*) has never been satisfactorily identified from Western Australia. However, he quotes an observation by W. H. Loaring made at Biekley on March 23, 1944, which Loaring felt sure applied to this species.

On February 7, 1956, I saw a single swift over Eclipse Island after a quiet day in which the wind had been from the east in the morning, calm during midday and coming in from the west and south-west in the late afternoon. This bird was watched for some time. It had a short squat tail, with white below the tail and on the throat. The body was noticeably squat and compact. The bird was silent but appeared to be feeding as were the resident!